

“CORRUPTED BY THE WORLD”

Hosea 4:11-14

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INTRODUCTION

“Like people, like Priest” (v. 9). The More God’s people have, the more we sin (v. 7). Our glory becomes our shame (7). Because we stop giving heed to the Lord.

Such was true for Israel; such must not be true for us. In this passage, we see that God people have become corrupted by the world. More than a casual glance around us will enable us to see that the same is happening to professing believers today:

- Were the Israelites guilty of **scandalous** behavior—so professing Christians have become guilty of such.
- Moreover, some of the same motivations are behind such behavior.
- Even the places of such behavior are commonly used in the same way in our current culture.
- Have contemporary women corrupted themselves? So have contemporary men.
- Did ancient Israel suffer from Satanic delusion; so have modern “believers.”
- Did ancient Israel experience certain destruction; so will corrupted modern “Christians.”

We must reject the cultural patterns of behavior engulfing professing Christendom today if we would avoid the obvious consequences. We must obey I John 2:15-17.

I. SCANDALOUS BEHAVIOR (11c-13)

A. Substance of the behavior

1. Rejection of Authority—“Departing from under their God” (12c)
2. Unfaithfulness (12)—“My people” “their God”
3. Immorality (11)
4. Alcohol “wine, new wine”
5. False Doctrine (idolatry—12)
 - a. Consult idols—wood (cf. Ps. 115:3-8)
 - b. Informed by divination—“staff, sticks” (compare superstitious and occult methods being used today.)

B. Places

- Mountain tops and hills (13)—sacrifices and incense; compare Isaac, the temple, Jesus on the cross. The heights and beautiful natural locations.
- Trees—oaks, poplars, terebinths—their shade is pleasant. There they commit their immoral deeds.

C. People

- Females (13)—promiscuity, adultery; daughters, and daughters-in-law. Do we want this to happen to our daughters? **How many offspring of professing Christians have fallen into moral corruption?**
- Males (14)—the men “go apart” with “harlots”—morally corrupt females. This speaks of “separation, perversion, from *wives, and children*. The men also “offer religious sacrifices” with “temple prostitutes”; many who go astray with professing Christian men profess some form of religiosity.
- What a perversion of the word “sacred”! Attempts to make **sin holy**.

None of this kind of behavior would be possible for professing believers without Satanic delusion.

II. SATANIC DELUSION (12)

These folks suffer from a “**spirit of harlotry**”.

- This refers to their inner spirit, yet a spirit under the control of “evil spirits” or even demonic spirits. **Even alcoholic “spirits” can be in view here.**
- This “spirit” leads them astray—causes them to wander off.
- They lose their understanding (11)—lit. their “heart” is removed”
- Thus they are “without understanding.”
- See James 4:4; I Jn. 2:15-17; 5:21.

III. CERTAIN DESTRUCTION (14c)

Literally, they are “cast down” headlong into ruin. Yet, how is it that v. 14 says that the women will not be punished?

- Cf. Romans 1—hardened and given up.
- Also, these women are doing what they are shown and driven to by the men.
- These men, as typically is the case, generally punish the women even as they do the same practices themselves (cf. Jn. 8).

CONCLUSION

Rejection of authority; immorality; alcohol; false doctrine; false gods.

If professing Christians practice such, they likewise will be ruined.

When will we learn that we can't fill ourselves with garbage from the world and still serve God?

Israel was the wisest nation on the earth because they had God's statutes. Now they have become fools and have been ruined.